

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10593 211550Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7384

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SADAT, ANWAR)

SUBJECT: SADAT VISIT -- PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN EDITORS

REF STATE 249557

1. PAO CONVEYED INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL TO TAHSIN BASHIR. BASHIR CALLED THE THREE EDITORS NOW INVOLVED: ALI HAMDI AL-GAMMAL (AHRAM, MOHSEN MOHAMMED (GUMHURRIYA) AND MUSA SABRI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF AL AKHBAR VICE ALI AMIN. HE EXPLAINED REFTEL, PARA 3, GROUND RULES TO EACH EDITOR IN PAO'S PRESENCE.

2. BASHIR APPRECIATES AIM OF MAXIMIZING PRESS AND MEDIA PLAY TO COINCIDE WITH PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL AND IS VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE THIS GROUP MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD. HE POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THESE EDITORS WERE SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL ON THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE AND THE CHANGE WILL CAUSE THEM TO MISS THE PARIS STOP AS WELL AS ENROUTE BRIEFINGS. ADDITIONALLY, IF THE INTERVIEW DOES NOT TAKE PLACE, THEY WILL HAVE TO SPEND THE VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND IN WASHINGTON WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE TO DO, ALTHOUGH PAO NOTED THAT SUITABLE PROGRAM WILL BE ARRANGED.

3. ON BALANCE, BASHIR FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO SCHEDULE THE INTERVIEW DURING THE VISIT IF POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, IF THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD CAN BE CONFIRMED FOR OCTOBER 24 OR 25, THE EDITORS ARE PREPARED TO ARRIVE ON OCTOBER 23 AND ARE MAKING AIRLINE

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 10593 211550Z

RESERVATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THIS CONTINGENCY.

4. WHILE RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTY IN SCHEDULING PRESIDENTIAL
APPOINTMENTS, REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO BASHIR'S SUGGESTION.
PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE IF CONFIRMATION OF
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OBTAINED BEFORE OCTOBER 23.
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